(c) the details of such representations pending with NHAI in the last two years and reasons for lack of action and response by NHAI;

(d) to what extent has the NHAI been un-responsive to demands and requests from responsible organizations, colleges and other institutions in that area; and

(e) the steps proposed for rectifying this type of negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received for provision of service roads, median opening, underpasses, central median lighting etc. for the stretch of NH-5 between Rajanagaram to Annvaram in East Godavari District.

(c) to (e) The construction work on the NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh has already been completed as part of Golden Quadrilateral Project. Road Safety Forum (s)/local representatives have demanded certain improvement on the 4 lane stretch. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has invited consultancy services for Road Safety Audit and included all such demands in Terms of Reference for the consultancy.

Rest Areas on NH-5

1790. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh had pleaded for specific Rest on NH-5;

(b) if so, whether NHAI has made any effort to contract, discuss and communicate with the Road safety Forum to develop such sites;

(c) what are the reasons for the lethargic approach of the NHAI in this matter; and

(d) what steps would be taken to complete such tasks initiated by the Road Safety Forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A representation for rest area near Eluru was received and it was planned to construct rest area on the site, but because of litigation the required land to construct the rest area could not be acquired. However,

the NHAI has invited expression of interest for establishing, operating and maintaining wayside amenities at eleven locations of which four pertain to NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh.

Ring Road Scheme in Varanasi

†1791. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whther proposed ring road scheme in Varanasi has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons for not commencing work on this scheme so far; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The construction of Varanasi-Ramnagar-Mugalsarai bypass on National Highway No. 2 has been completed in South-West of Varanasi. This stretch also links National Highway No. 7. The stretch known as Northern Bypass has three parts *viz.* NH-2 to NH-56, NH-56 to NH-29 and NH-29 to NH-2. the land acquisition work between NH-56 to NH-29 has been sanctioned after feasibility study. The proposal of feasibility study for the stretches between NH-2 to NH-56 and NH-29 to NH-2 are included in the Annual Plan 2005-2006. All these bypasses will form a Ring Road around Varanasi. the construction work can be taken only after feasibility study and land acquisition are completed. Hence it is not possible to indicate the likely date of completion at this stage.

Challenges from Multinational Companies

1792. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries are facing challenges of competition from Multinational companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to help Small Scale Industries?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.